Remarks

I. Support for Amendments

Applicants submit these amendments with a Request for Continued Examination in view of the Final Office Action dated October 4, 2007. Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define the invention and to incorporate the steps of claims 12 and 13. Accordingly, claims 12 and 13 have been canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter claimed therein. Support for these amendments can be found throughout the specification, for example, on page 28, lines 29-33, and Example 4, on page 38, of the publication of the International Application Number PCT/GB00/00876 (International Publication Number WO 00/54057). Accordingly, no new matter has been added by these amendments and entry thereof is respectfully requested. The outstanding rejection is addressed below.

II. Rejection of Claims 1-17 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1 to 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Gargano *et al.* Applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by Gargano *et al.*

Claim 1 has been amended to recite, "wherein the nucleic acid encoding the immunoglobulin is obtained from a phage library encoding a repertoire of immunoglobulin-encoding nucleic acids; wherein no prior application of phage display is used to isolate immunoglobulins which bind to a target;" as described in the specification, for example, on page 28 and in Example 4. A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. Gargano *et al.* teach that the size of the antibody repertoire derived from a phage display library is too large to test in a selection system *in vivo* (such as yeast two hybrid) and that preselection steps (such as affinity purification on an antigen column) are needed to first enrich the population for phages that are able to bind the antigen of interest *in vitro*. Moreover, Gargano *et al.* teach that each successive cycle or step of preselection further enriches the pool of affinity purifed scFv fragments (see page 174, end of 3rd paragraph, page 176, 2nd full paragraph, page 177, 4th full paragraph, page 183, 1st paragraph, page 185, 1st paragraph and Figure 10.2).

While Gargano *et al.* teach that several preselection steps are required, the instant application discloses "screening of entire antibody libraries, such as phage libraries, without prior application of phage display to isolate the antibodies which bind to the desired antigen" (see page 28, lines 29-33). Applicants show that direct selection of scFv libraries in a yeast antibody-antigen system, *without* any preselection to reduce the size of the library, is feasible (see Example 4).

Thus, Gargano *et al.*, which teach subjecting phage libraries to at least one, and preferably several, preselection steps, in order to enrich the library for antibodies which bind to a target antigen, do not teach every element of the claimed invention and therefore, do not anticipate claims 1-17 as amended. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Gargano *et al.* is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants believe that the application is in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner believes that any further discussion of this communication would be helpful, she is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below in order to expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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